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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/11/02 4:42pm
Subject: Microsoft case comments

US Department of Justice,

A far greater threat to our country's free enterprise system, than any adjudicated monopolistic tendencies of Microsoft, is the precedent being set by members of Congress and State Attorneys General who have placed the financial goals of Microsoft's competitors, residing in their respective states, ahead of the American consumers! These "defenders" of competition are using the powers of their office, and the courts to intimidate and dictate restrictions on businesses in order to level what should remain a competitive playing field.

Microsoft created standard operating systems and application software that has decreased the price of consumer hardware and software, not increased it. Microsoft developed software processes that have brought computers to the masses using visual format, while creating millions of jobs in associated peripheral hardware equipment by simplifying those peripheral interfaces for nontechnical users. This is bad for the consumer?

Finally, in the global arena, foreign nations have created government financed monopolies, and now a common currency, to compete with American corporations. To remain competitive, our manufacturing industries have been consolidating and outsourcing processes for years to those very same nations, resulting in the loss of American jobs and purchasing power. One of the few remaining successfully competitive businesses the USA holds in world commerce is the software service industry. Since this software monopoly "witch hunt" was begun by those who cannot compete in our free market without using their government officials to stifle competition, our overall ability to compete in the global market will be reduced and will inevitably drive the software service industry down the same road as its manufacturing counterparts.

Investors will not risk their capital in a marketplace controlled by political whim versus business scrutiny!

Terrorists from without will never damage our free enterprise system as much as the self-serving powers from within under the guise consumer protection!

The Justice Department settlement of restrictions, the ban on exclusive contracts and disclosure of APIs goes far enough. Please end this charade.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important case,
Ted Biondo
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